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Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Report on the twentieth session (8-12 May 2017)

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Note

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Summary

At its twentieth session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development discussed the role of science and technology within the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reviewed the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels. In addition, it considered two priority themes, "New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" and "The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030". The session also included a segment on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

The Commission adopted two draft resolutions, entitled "Science, technology and innovation for development" and "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society".

The Commission selected "The role of science, technology and innovation to increase substantially the share of renewable energy by 2030" and "Building digital competencies to benefit from existing and emerging technologies, with special focus on gender and youth dimensions" as the priority themes for consideration at its twenty-first session. The Commission will identify and consider specific aspects of the themes at the forthcoming meeting of the intersessional panel, in cooperation with experts.

Further information on the session of the Commission is available from www.unctad.org/cstd.

[30 June 2017]

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	5
	A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council	5
	I. Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society	5
	II. Science, technology and innovation for development	15
	B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	22
	Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twentieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-first session of the Commission	22
II.	Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels	23
III.	Science and technology for development	24
IV.	Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews	26
V.	Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-first session of the Commission	27
VI.	Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-first session of the Commission	28
VII.	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twentieth session	29
VIII.	Organization of the session	30
	A. Opening and duration of the session	30
	B. Attendance	30
	C. Election of officers	30
	D. Agenda and organization of work	31
	E. Documentation	31
Annexes		
I.	List of documents before the Commission at its twentieth session	32
II.	Ministerial round tables and panel discussion	33

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2016/22 of 27 July 2016 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", in which the Assembly reaffirmed the World Summit vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, assessed progress made to date, identified gaps and challenges and made recommendations for the future,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 71/212 of 21 December 2016 on information and communications technologies for development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2]

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned report in a timely manner,

Noting with appreciation the holding of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, and its outcome document entitled "Nairobi Maafikiano: From decision to action:

[1] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.
[2] A/72/64-E/2017/12.

Moving towards an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development",[3]

Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Welcomes and urges* the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

2. *Welcomes* the constructive and diverse inputs from all stakeholders in the overall review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

3. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the full implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and the vision of the 10-year review of the World Summit beyond 2015;

4. *Encourages* close alignment between the World Summit process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[4] as called for in General Assembly resolution 70/125, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication, and noting that access to information and communications technologies has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;

5. *Reaffirms* that one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda is to significantly increase access to information and communications technology;

6. *Welcomes* the remarkable evolution and diffusion of information and communications technologies, underpinned by the contributions of both public and private sectors, which have seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interaction, enabled new business models, and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while noting the unique and emerging challenges related to their evolution and diffusion;

7. *Notes with concern* that there are still significant digital divides, such as between and within countries and between women and men, which need to be addressed through, among other actions, strengthened enabling policy environments and international cooperation to improve affordability, access, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and appropriate financing, acknowledges that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divides, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of girls and women in the information society and women's access to new technologies, especially information and communications technologies for development;

8. *Recognizes* that information and communications technology infrastructure is fundamental to achieving the goal of digital inclusion and that digital divides persist across income groups, age groups, geography and gender, and therefore reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, target 9.c, which aims to significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strives to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020, and in this regard notes the importance of the Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Development;

9. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, emphasizing, in particular, its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this

[3] TD/519/Add.2 and Corr.1.
[4] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

10. *Recognizes* the value and principle of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit process since its inception and that are clearly recognized in the 2030 Agenda, and notes that many activities that support the objectives of the World Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented by Governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academic and technical communities and multi-stakeholder partnerships in their respective roles and responsibilities;

11. *Takes note* of the reports of many United Nations entities, with their respective executive summaries, submitted as input for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

12. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2] including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

13. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of encouraging collaboration and partnership among all stakeholders, including international organizations, exchanging information among action line facilitators and other stakeholders, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting on the overall implementation process;

14. *Encourages* all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the stocktaking database;

15. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component, for which the United Nations Group on the Information Society has offered its assistance;

16. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit;[1]

17. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution 70/125, the General Assembly called for continuation of the annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Council, and reaffirms the role of the Commission, as set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

18. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

19. *Welcomes* the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile telephony and broadband since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants should have access to information and communications technologies within their reach, in line with the World Summit targets, the value of this progress being enhanced by the advent of new electronic and mobile services and applications for health, agriculture, education, business, development, financial and government services, civic participation and transactional services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

20. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, and promote digital literacy to bridge the digital and knowledge divides;

21. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy;

22. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and underscores the need to urgently address the growing digital divides in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between and within high-, middle- and low-income countries and other regions, with special emphasis on supporting the least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa as a continent;

23. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

24. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not available to or affordable for the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

25. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that, in some instances, the digital divide and the knowledge divide are also changing in character, from a divide based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value that they can derive therefrom, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

26. *Further recognizes* the importance of human capacity-building, an enabling environment and resilient information and communications technology infrastructure, as well as fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships, and assistance to countries in their efforts to strengthen the enabling role of information and communications technology for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and notes the holding of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 under the overall theme "Information and Communications Technology for Sustainable Development Goals", in Buenos Aires from 9 to 20 October 2017;

27. *Welcomes* the eTrade for All initiative launched at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, which provides a new approach to trade development through electronic exchanges by allowing developing countries to more easily navigate the supply of technical assistance for building capacity in e-commerce readiness and by enabling donors to have a clear picture of the programmes that they could fund;

28. *Takes note* of the global report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, entitled *The State of Broadband 2016: Broadband Catalysing Sustainable Development*, and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an enabling environment for broadband connectivity, in particular through national broadband plans and public-private partnerships for ensuring that the development agenda challenges are met with appropriate impact and in conjunction with all stakeholders;

29. *Reaffirms* the commitment made in General Assembly resolution 70/125 to close the digital divides between and within countries, including the gender digital divide, through efforts to improve connectivity, affordability, access to information and knowledge, multilingual content, digital skills and digital literacy, acknowledging specific challenges facing persons with disabilities and specific needs, and groups in vulnerable situations;

30. *Welcomes* the many initiatives of United Nations organizations which support the implementation of the World Summit action lines, and encourages all action line facilitators to continue to work towards implementation of the action lines;

31. *Notes with great concern* the fact that women are 12 per cent less likely than men to make use of the Internet, and 31 per cent less likely to do so in the least developed countries, draws attention to the gender digital divide, which persists in women's access to and use of information and communications technologies, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development, and, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, calls upon Member States to adopt all appropriate measures, especially by significantly enhancing women's and girls' education and participation in information and communications technologies, as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders;

32. *Notes* the many initiatives targeted at closing the gender digital divide, including, among others, International Girls in ICT Day (International Telecommunication Union), the launch of the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age and the Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in Technology Awards (International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Women on the Homepage (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), the Global Survey on Gender and Media (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), the Broadband Commission Working Group on Broadband and Gender, the Best Practice Forum Gender and Access of the Internet Governance Forum, the work being done in the World Summit on the Information Society Forum on gender issues and the work of the World Bank in a number of countries promoting opportunities for women and girls in information and communications technologies, as well as the work of many other stakeholders on this issue;

33. *Reaffirms* the commitment to pay particular attention to the unique and emerging information and communications technology challenges facing all countries, in particular developing countries, as envisaged in the relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

34. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

35. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

36. *Notes* that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, cybersecurity, the gender gap, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

37. *Reaffirms* that, in the outcome document on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit action lines, the General Assembly called for the World Summit on the Information Society Forum to be held annually, [5] recognizes the value of the Forum in enhancing cooperation, partnership, innovation, the exchange of experiences and good practices by all stakeholders in information and communications technologies for sustainable development, and notes the most recent Forum, held in Geneva from 12 to 16 June 2017;

38. *Encourages* action line facilitators to use the Geneva Plan of Action[6] as the framework for identifying practical measures to use information and communications technologies to help to achieve the 2030 Agenda, noting the World

[5] See General Assembly resolution 70/125.
[6] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

Summit on the Information Society-Sustainable Development Goals Matrix, developed by United Nations agencies;

39. *Encourages* World Summit action line facilitators to ensure close alignment to the 2030 Agenda when considering new work to implement the outcomes of the World Summit, according to their existing mandates and resources;

40. *Reiterates* the importance of the call by the General Assembly for all stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into approaches to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and its request to United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

Internet governance

41. *Reaffirms* that the outcomes of the World Summit related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizes that the two processes may be complementary;

42. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[7]

43. *Further reaffirms* paragraphs 55 to 65 of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

Enhanced cooperation

44. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not have an impact on international public policy issues;

45. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, established by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125, to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, also notes that the Working Group will ensure the full involvement of Governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, taking into account all their diverse views and expertise, and encourages participants in the Working Group to take forward their efforts to fulfil its mandate;

Internet Governance Forum

46. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance;

47. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/125, to extend the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further 10 years, during which time the Forum should continue to show progress on working modalities and the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries;

[7] See A/60/687.

48. *Recognizes* that national and regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives have emerged, taking place in all regions and addressing Internet governance issues of relevance and priority to the organizing country or region;

49. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 70/125, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, within its regular reporting, to give due consideration to fulfilment of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission;[8]

50. *Notes* the holding of the eleventh meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, hosted by the Government of Mexico in Guadalajara from 6 to 9 December 2016, under the theme "Enabling inclusive and sustainable growth";

51. *Welcomes* the holding of the twelfth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, to be hosted by the Government of Switzerland from 18 to 21 December 2017, under the theme "Shape Your Digital Future!", and notes that, in the preparatory process for the meeting, recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum are being taken into consideration;

52. *Welcomes*, in that context, the continuous progress made with regard to the intersessional work of the Internet Governance Forum in the different modalities of connecting and enabling the next billion online, dynamic coalitions and best practice forums, as well as the contributions being made by both national and regional Internet governance forums;

The road ahead

53. *Calls upon* United Nations entities to continue to actively cooperate in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system, to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda;

54. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divides, in their different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divides among and within countries towards building information and knowledge societies;

55. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divides;

56. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

[8] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and Corr.1.

57. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[9]

58. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators in open data format as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, and emphasizes the importance of the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators;

59. *Acknowledges* the importance of digital monitoring tools that support the deployment and measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

60. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at all levels, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit project prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

61. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(a) Encourages Member States to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(b) Encourages United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on sustainable development;

(c) Notes with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development and the annual *Measuring the Information Society Report*, which provides recent trends and statistics on access to and the affordability of information and communications technologies and the evolution of the information and knowledge societies worldwide, including the Information and Communications Technology Development Index;

(d) Encourages the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development to follow up on Statistical Commission decision 47/110 of 11 March 2016 on information and communications technology statistics,[10] and recommends in that context that the Partnership develop guidance to improve cooperation with the different stakeholders for the purposes of producing high quality and timely information and communications technology statistics and of leveraging the potential benefits of using big data for official statistics;

(e) Notes the holding, in Botswana, from 21 to 23 November 2016, of the fourteenth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology

[9] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

[10] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 4* (E/2016/24), chap. I, sect. B.

Indicators Symposium, and also notes the fifteenth symposium, to be held in Tunisia from 14 to 16 November 2017;

62. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland, Switzerland and the United States of America to this fund;

63. *Recalls* the proposal in General Assembly resolution 70/125 that the Assembly hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025;

64. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the related discussion of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twentieth session;[11]

65. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting an inclusive information society, with particular attention to bridging the digital and broadband divides, taking into account the considerations of developing countries, gender and culture, as well as youth and other underrepresented groups;

66. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution as well as in the other Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit.

[11] Ibid., 2017, *Supplement No. 11* (E/2017/31).

Draft resolution II
Science, technology and innovation for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] and General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also the entry into force, on 4 November 2016, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[2]

Recalling further that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/213 of 22 December 2015 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2015/242 of 22 July 2015 providing for the extension, until 2021, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, as well as General Assembly resolutions 70/132 of 17 December 2015, 70/213 and 70/219 of 22 December 2015 addressing, respectively, the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology, and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work,[3] adopted by the Commission at its sixty-first session, in which it, inter alia, highlighted the need for managing technological and digital change for women's economic empowerment, particularly to strengthen the capacities of developing countries, so as to enable women to leverage science and technology for economic empowerment in the changing world of work,

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[1] General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[2] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 7* (E/2017/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Taking note of the importance for science, technology and innovation development policies and programmes to address various aspects of the digital divides, particularly the digital gender divide,

Recognizing that capabilities, for example, scientific and technological capacity, basic education and engineering, design, management and entrepreneurial skills, are central for effective innovation, but are unevenly distributed across countries, and that the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality education in science, technology and mathematics at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels are essential and should be promoted, prioritized and coordinated, in order to create a social environment conducive to the promotion of science, technology and innovation,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recognizing the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies in the achievement of a number of Sustainable Development Goals, and highlighting the role of science, technology and innovation, along with information and communications technologies, as an enabler of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to continue to address global challenges,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and noting the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" and "The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030",

Recognizing the need for innovation approaches that respond to the needs of poor, grass-roots and marginalized communities in developing and developed countries and involve them in innovation processes and that embed capacity-building in the areas of science, technology and innovation as a crucial component of national development plans, inter alia, through collaboration between the relevant ministries and regulatory bodies,

Recognizing also that technology foresight and assessment exercises, including gender-sensitive technologies, could help policymakers and stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the identification of challenges and opportunities that can be addressed strategically, and that technology trends should be analysed, keeping in view the wider socioeconomic context,

Recognizing further that well-developed innovation and digital ecosystems[4] play a fundamental role in the effective digital development and facilitation of science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing the increased regional integration efforts across the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[5] including the principles referred to therein,

[4] The digital ecosystem involves components such as technological infrastructure, data infrastructure, financial infrastructure, institutional infrastructure and human infrastructure.

[5] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Recognizing the need to mobilize and scale up financing for innovation, especially in developing countries, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting with concern that about 795 million people, or every ninth person, are undernourished, the majority of whom live in developing countries and rural areas, and that new, existing and emerging technologies can address the multiple dimensions of food security,

Recognizing that harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation for food security would benefit from the transfer of technologies on mutually agreed terms and conditions, investments in research and development, both public and private, human capital, infrastructure and market infrastructure, knowledge flows, an enabling environment, gender-sensitive approaches to technology development and dissemination, regional and international collaboration and mechanisms for technology foresight, and would also require the development of agricultural extension and advisory services, the promotion of the capacity to innovate, and effective and inclusive producers' organizations,

Noting the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies, to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

Noting also that science, technology and innovation policies must be aligned to address the three dimensions of sustainable development, specifically, economic development, social progress and environmental protection,

Taking into consideration that traditional knowledge can be a basis for technological development and in the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

Noting that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer,

Noting also various ongoing and future initiatives related to science, technology and innovation to explore important issues associated with the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recommends the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

(i) To closely link science, technology, innovation and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning;

(ii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, mobilizing resources from multiple channels, improving core information and communications technology and supporting smart infrastructure, including through collaboration with and among national programmes;

(iii) To encourage and support the science, technology and innovation efforts leading to the development of infrastructure and policies that support the global expansion of information and communications technology infrastructure, products and services, including broadband Internet access to all people, particularly women, girls and youth, catalysing multi-stakeholder efforts to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020 and endeavouring to improve the affordability of such products and services;

(iv) To undertake systemic research, including gender-sensitive aspects, for foresight exercises, on new trends in science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[6]

(v) To work, with input from a variety of stakeholders, including appropriate United Nations agencies, to formulate, adopt and implement science, technology and innovation policies aimed at contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(vi) To use strategic foresight exercises to identify potential gaps in education for the medium and long term and address such gaps with a policy mix, including the promotion of gender-responsive science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and vocational training;

(vii) To use strategic foresight as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders, including representatives of Government, science, industry and civil society and the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, towards creating a shared understanding of long-term issues and building consensus on future policies;

(viii) To undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate towards the establishment of a mapping system to review and share technology foresight outcomes, including pilot projects, with other Member States, making use of existing regional mechanisms, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

(ix) To encourage the review of progress on integrating science, technology and innovation in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(x) To conduct assessments, including of gender-sensitive aspects, of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, drawing from foresight exercises, at regular intervals, to identify weaknesses in the systems and make effective policy interventions to strengthen their weaker components, and share outcomes with other Member States;

(xi) To recognize the need to promote the functional dynamics of innovation systems and other relevant methodologies based on diversified policy instruments to support science, technology and innovation development priorities, in order to strengthen the coherence of such systems for sustainable development;

(xii) To encourage digital natives to play a key role in a community-based approach, including gender-responsive approaches, to science, technology and innovation capacity-building, and facilitate the use of information and communications technologies in the context of the 2030 Agenda;

(xiii) To put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems, bearing in mind the potential of emerging digital technologies to

[6] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

leapfrog existing technologies for development, that are inclusive and take into account the socioeconomic and political context of countries and attract and support private investment and innovation, particularly encouraging the development of local content and entrepreneurship;

(xiv) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, promote the application of information and communications technologies in all sectors, improve environmental sustainability and encourage the creation of suitable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste;

(xv) To address the ongoing and persistent gender gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation as a whole, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in particular, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields, as well as applying a gender lens when developing and implementing policies that harness science, technology and innovation;

(xvi) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South as well as South-South cooperation, as complementary to but not substituting for each other, by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and technical training programmes or courses;

(xvii) To encourage countries to progressively increase the rate of generation of high-quality skilled human resources at all levels by providing an environment for building a critical mass of human resource capacity, harnessing and effectively participating in the application of science, technology and innovation for value addition activities, solving problems and enhancing human welfare;

(xviii) To increase national support for research and development in agriculture and support investments in infrastructure, extension services and marketing, organizational and social innovations to improve food security;

(xix) To support policies that increase financial inclusion and deepen the sources of financing and direct investments towards innovations that address the Sustainable Development Goals;

(xx) To ensure the inclusiveness of innovation, especially with regard to local communities, women and youth, to ensure that the scaling and diffusion of new technologies are inclusive and do not create further divides;

(b) The Commission is encouraged:

(i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues;

(ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation as enablers in the 2030 Agenda by acting as a forum for strategic planning and providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies;

(iii) To consider how its work aligns with, feeds into and complements other international forums on science, technology and innovation and efforts supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(iv) To raise awareness and facilitate networking and partnerships among various technology foresight organizations and networks, in collaboration with other stakeholders;

(v) To promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[7] international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, including capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(vi) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;

(vii) To highlight scientific, technical and innovative applications for food security, including access to better data sources that feed into agricultural extension services, early warning systems for disasters and local innovation efforts; and promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned and regional and international cooperation;

(viii) To proactively strengthen and revitalize global science, technology and innovation partnerships for sustainable development, which would entail the engagement of the Commission in (a) translating technology foresight into elaborating the scope of specific international projects for targeted research, technology development and deployment and initiatives for building human resource capacity for science, technology and innovation; and (b) exploring innovative financing models and other resources contributing to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in collaborative projects and initiatives in science, technology and innovation;

(ix) To explore ways and means of conducting international technology assessment and foresight exercises on existing, new and emerging technologies and their implications for food security, including discussions about models of governance for new areas of scientific and technological development;

(x) To discuss and explore innovative financing models, such as impact investment, as a means to attract new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;

(xi) To promote capacity-building and cooperation in research and development, in collaboration with relevant institutions, including appropriate United Nations agencies, working to facilitate the strengthening of innovation systems that support innovators, particularly in developing countries, to boost their efforts to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;

(xii) To provide a forum for sharing not only success stories and best practices but also failures and key challenges and learning from the results of foresight exercises, successful local innovation models, case studies and experience on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, including the application of new emerging technologies, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development, and to share findings with all relevant United Nations entities including through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation;

[7] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

(xiii) To contribute to alleviating the constraints faced by developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States, through the creation of a Sustainable Development Goals resource access hub, through extrabudgetary resources, a vehicle which would be the repository of projects, data, financing mechanisms, technological advances, and experts, as well as success stories, difficulties and obstacles encountered by countries;

(xiv) To continue to play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the 2030 Agenda through substantive inputs, as appropriate, to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations, and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;

(xv) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related to the Sustainable Development Goals, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other relevant forums;

(xvi) To strengthen and deepen collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, including sharing good practices and lessons learned in integrating a gender perspective in science, technology and innovation policymaking and implementation;

(c) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:

(i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of information and communications technologies in empowering science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

(ii) To look into the feasibility of including elements of strategic foresight and digital ecosystem assessment in policy reviews of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies, possibly by including a chapter dedicated to these themes;

(iii) To broaden the framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews in order to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals, including a specific focus on bottom-of-the-pyramid approaches to innovation, and social inclusion;

(iv) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations;

(v) To encourage the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to the policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to better integrate gender perspectives into science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twentieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-first session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twentieth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-first session of the Commission as set out below.

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

3. Science and technology for development: priority themes:

(a) The role of science, technology and innovation in significantly increasing the share of renewable energy by 2030;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Building digital competencies to benefit from existing and emerging technologies, with special focus on gender and youth dimensions.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-second session of the Commission.

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-second session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-first session.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 11* (E/2017/31).

Chapter II

Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

3. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd to 4th meetings, on 8 and 9 May, and at its 7th and 8th meetings, on 11 and 12 May 2017. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/72/64-E/2017/12);

(b) Summary report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the intersessional panel meeting held in Geneva from 23 to 25 January 2017 (E/CN.16/2017/CRP.1);

(c) Summary report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on implementing World Summit on the Information Society outcomes, 2016 (E/CN.16/2017/CRP.2).

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 May, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD introduced the report of the Secretary-General.

High-level round table on the theme "Review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes"

5. Also at its 2nd meeting, on 8 May, the Commission held a ministerial round table on the theme "Review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes". The list of participants in the discussion is provided in annex II.

6. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 May, the Commission held its general discussion on the item and heard introductory remarks by the Vice-Chair (Hungary). The list of speakers is contained in annex II.

Action taken by the Commission

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

7. At its 8th meeting, on 12 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution on assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations and circulated in an informal paper in English only.

8. At the same meeting, the facilitator of the draft resolution, Peter Major (Hungary), made a statement.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Commission provided clarification with regard to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

10. Also at the 8th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.

11. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Austria, on behalf of the Western European and other Sates.

12. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Chapter III
Science and technology for development

Priority themes:

(a) New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

(b) The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030

13. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 1st, 4th and 6th to 8th meetings, on 8, 9, 10 and 11 May. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report on new innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2017/42);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030 (E/CN.16/2017/3);

(c) Report on the role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030 (UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2017/5);

(d) Report on the intersessional panel meeting, held in Geneva from 23 to 25 January 2017 (E/CN.16/2017/CRP.1).

Ministerial round table on the theme "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges"

14. At its 1st meeting, on 8 May, the Commission held a ministerial round table on the 2017 theme of the Council, "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges". The list of the participants in the discussion is contained in annex II.

15. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed to transmit to the Council during its high-level segment, to be held in New York from 17 to 20 July 2017, the Chair's summary of the discussion (E/2017/72).

Panel discussion on science and technology for development

16. At the 4th meeting, on 10 May, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030 (E/CN.16/2017/3).

17. At the same meeting, the Commission held a panel discussion on the priority theme "The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030", moderated by the Vice-Chair (Mauritius). The list of the participants in the discussion is contained in annex II.

Action taken by the Commission

Science, technology and innovation for development

18. At its 8th meeting, on 12 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution on science, technology and innovation for development, submitted by the Chair of the Commission, on the basis of informal consultations, and circulated in English only.

19. A statement was made by the facilitator of the draft resolution, A. Min Tjoa (Austria).

20. The Secretary of the Commission provided clarification with regard to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

21. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States.

22. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

Draft decision proposed by the Chair

23. At its 8th meeting, on 12 May, on the proposal of the Chair, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on new innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (E/CN.16/2017/2) and the report of the Secretary-General on the role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030 (E/CN.16/2017/3).

Chapter IV

Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews

24. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 5th meeting, on 10 May.

Presentation of the progress report on the science, technology and innovation policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

25. The President of the Economic and Social Council, Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava (Zimbabwe), delivered a keynote address.

26. The Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD, made introductory remarks.

27. A statement was made by the Vice-President for Science and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sorena Sattari Khavas.

28. A presentation was made by the representative of the UNCTAD secretariat.

29. Statements were made by the representatives of Germany, China and Kenya.

30. A statement was also made by the observer for Oman.

31. The Deputy for Policymaking and Strategic Evaluation of the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahdi Elyasi, made a statement.

Presentation of the progress report on the science, technology and innovation policy of Rwanda

32. A statement was made by the Director General for the National Commission of Science and Technology of Rwanda, Manasse Mbonye.

33. A presentation was made by the representative of the UNCTAD secretariat.

34. Statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Thailand, China, Uganda, Kenya and Mexico.

35. Statements were also made by the observers for Morocco and Ethiopia.

36. A statement was made by the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

Chapter V

Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-first session of the Commission

37. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 8th meeting, on 12 May.

38. The Commission elected by acclamation the following officers for its twenty-first session:

Vice-Chairs:

A. Min **Tjoa** (Austria)
Wang Ruijun (China)
Peter **Major** (Hungary)
Joseph Noël Etienne Ghislain **Sinatambou** (Mauritius)

39. The Commission postponed the election of the Chair from the Latin American and Caribbean States.

40. The Commission also postponed the appointment of the Rapporteur, from among the Vice-Chairs, to its twenty-first session.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-first session of the Commission

41. The Commission considered agenda item 6 at its 8th meeting, on 12 May. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its twenty-first session.

42. A statement was made by the Chair.

43. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Portugal, India, the Dominican Republic, the Russian Federation, Kenya, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Latvia, Turkey, Mauritius, Pakistan and Germany.

44. The Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics and head of the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, UNCTAD, made a statement.

45. The Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its twenty-first session and recommended it to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twentieth session

46. At its 8th meeting, on 12 May, the Commission had before it the draft report on its twentieth session, as contained in an informal paper circulated in English only.

47. The Rapporteur, Peter Major (Hungary), introduced the draft report.

48. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and Pakistan.

49. The Commission adopted the draft report on its twentieth session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

50. The Commission held its twentieth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 8 to 12 May 2017. The Commission held eight meetings (1st to 8th).

51. The 1st meeting of the session was opened by the Vice-Chair, Peter Major (Hungary). At the same meeting, the Commission elected Ruijun Wang (China) as Chair of the twentieth session. Mr. Wang made an opening statement.

52. Also at the same meeting, on 8 May, a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD was made by the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD.

53. Also at the 1st meeting, the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations in New York and President of the Economic and Social Council, Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, and the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, Houlin Zhao, addressed the Commission.

54. At the same meeting, Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite, Executive Director of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust and President of the Women in Science International League, addressed the Commission.

B. Attendance

55. The session was attended by representatives of 42 States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and representatives of civil society and business entities also attended. The list of participants for the session is contained in document E/CN.16/2017/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

56. At the 8th meeting of its nineteenth session, on 13 May 2016, the Commission had elected by acclamation the following as members of the Bureau of its twentieth session:

Vice-Chairs:

Benedicto **Fonseca Filho** (Brazil)
Peter **Major** (Hungary)
Joseph Noël Etienne Ghislain **Sinatambou** (Mauritius)
A. Min **Tjoa** (Austria)

57. At the 1st meeting of the twentieth session of the Commission, on 8 May 2017, Ruijun Wang was elected to serve as Chair.

58. At the same meeting, the Commission appointed Peter Major (Hungary) to serve, in addition to serving as Vice-Chair, as Rapporteur of the twentieth session of the Commission.

D. Agenda and organization of work

59. At its 1st meeting, on 8 May, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.16/2017/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.
3. Science and technology for development:

   Priority themes:

   (a) New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

   (b) The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030.
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-first session of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-first session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twentieth session.

60. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the proposed organization of work, as contained in an informal paper circulated in English only.

61. Also at the same meeting, the Commission appointed A. Min Tjoa, (Austria) to facilitate the draft resolution on science and technology for development and Peter Major (Hungary) to facilitate the draft resolution on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.

E. Documentation

62. The list of documents before the Commission at its twentieth session is contained in annex I to the present report.

Annex I

List of documents before the Commission at its twentieth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.16/2017/1	1	Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work
A/72/64-E/2017/12	2	Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels
E/CN.16/2017/2	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on new innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
E/CN.16/2017/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030
	7	Draft report of the Commission on its twentieth session (circulated in an informal paper in English only)
E/CN.16/2017/CRP.1[a]	3	Report of the intersessional panel meeting (23-25 January 2017)
E/CN.16/2017/CRP.2[b]	2	Report on implementing World Summit on the Information Society outcomes, 2016
E/CN.16/2017/INF/1		List of participants

[a] http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecn162017crp1_en.pdf.
[b] http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecn162017crp2_en.pdf.

Annex II

Ministerial round tables and panel discussion

Ministerial round table on the theme "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges"

1. At its 1st meeting, on 8 May, the Commission held a ministerial round table on the 2017 theme of the Council, "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges". The round table was moderated by the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics and Head of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development secretariat, UNCTAD, who also made introductory remarks.

2. At the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, in which the following participants took part: Additional Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan, Muhammad Ashraf; Assistant Director-General, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department, Food and Agriculture Organization, René Castro Salazar; Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology, Philippines, Fortunato de la Pena; Deputy for Policy Making and Strategic Evaluation, and Vice Presidency for Science and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mehdi Elyasi; Permanent Representative of Iceland to the Food and Agriculture Organization and Vice-Chair of the Committee on World Food Security, Jón Erlingur Jónasson; Lead Advisor for the Programme Management Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Shantanu Mathur; Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand, Atchaka Sibunruang; Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritius, Marie Joseph Noël Etienne Ghislain Sinatambou; Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State, United States, Vaughan Turekian; Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Sri Lanka, R. Wijialudchumi; Associate Counsel of the Ministry of Science and Technology, China, Xu Jie; Director General, National Commission of Science and Technology, Rwanda, Manasse Mbonye.

3. Also at the same meeting, on 8 May, the representatives of the Philippines (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Mexico, India and Austria (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States) made statements. At the same meeting, the Moderator made a brief summary of the discussion.

High-level round table "Review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes"

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 May, the Commission held a ministerial round table on "Review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes". The round table was moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Benedicto Fonseca Filho (Brazil), who also made introductory remarks. An interactive discussion ensued in which the following participants took part: Director of Freedom of Expression and Media Development Division in the Communication and Information Sector, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Guy Berger; Associate Counsel of the Ministry of Science and Technology, China, Jie Xu; Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritius, Marie Joseph Noël Etienne Ghislain Sinatambou; Deputy Minister for Science and Technology, Dominican Republic, Plácido Gómez Ramírez; Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Cuba, Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Latvia, Janis Karklins; Executive Vice President, Chief Digital Officer, Capgemini, Kimberly Smith; President and Chief Executive

Officer, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, Goran Marby; Permanent Representative, Lesotho, Moshe Kao; Deputy Permanent Representative, United Kingdom, Andrew Staines; Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Sri Lanka, R. Wijialudchumi; Ambassador, Director of International Relations, Federal Office of Communications, Switzerland, Thomas Schneider; Mounir Hamaidia, in charge of studies and analysis, Ministry of Posts and Information and Communication Technologies, Algeria; the representative of Portugal, and the representative of the International Telecommunications Union.

5. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 May, the Commission held its general discussion on the item and heard introductory remarks by the Vice-Chair (Hungary). At the same meeting, presentations were made by the following panellists: Minister of Communications and Media, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lambert Mende Omalanga; Vice-Chair of the Commission and Director, Department of Scientific and Technological Themes, Ministry of External Relations, Brazil, Benedicto Fonseca Filho; Chair, Multistakeholder Advisory Group, Internet Governance Forum, Lynn St. Amour; Executive Director, Asociación Interamericana de Empresas de Telecomunicaciones, and Centro de Estudios de Telecomunicaciones de América Latina (cet.la), Pablo Bello; and Executive Director, Association of Progressive Communications, Philippines, Chat Garcia.

6. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Poland, Austria (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Mexico, India, China, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Kenya and Brazil. A statement was also made by the observer for Morocco.

7. At the 3rd meeting, statements were also made by the Internet Society, the International Chamber of Commerce and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

Panel discussion on science and technology for development

8. At the 4th meeting, on 10 May, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030 (E/CN.16/2017/3).

9. At the same meeting, the Commission held a panel discussion on the priority theme "*The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030*", moderated by the Vice-Chair (Mauritius). Presentations were made by the following panellists: Head of the Directorate of Education and Human Resources, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Member of the Gender Advisory Board, Shirley Malcom; Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies on Industrial Property and Economics, University of Buenos Aires, Carlos M. Correa; Lead Adviser of the Programme Management Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Shantanu Mathur; Executive Director, Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group), Pat Mooney; and Suchith Anand, of the University of Nottingham and Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition. In the discussion, statements were made by representatives of India, Turkey, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Peru, China, Brazil and Mexico.

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